

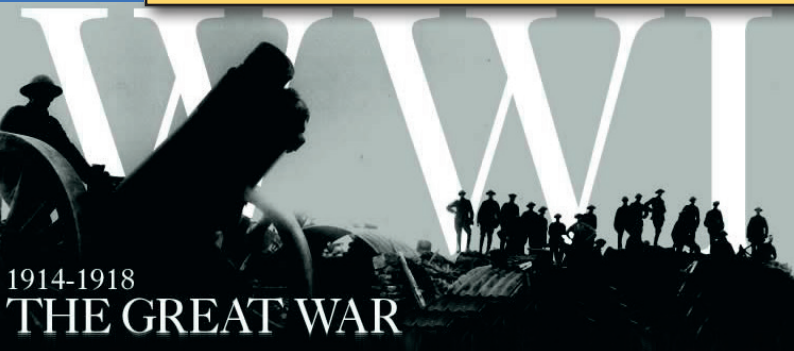
Commemoration for the Lives of the Braidwood and District ANZACS

"We will remember them well"

A CALL FROM THE DARDANELLES



From 1914 - 1918, 465 volunteers from Braidwood and the District joined the Australian Imperial Force in World War I. 88 lost their lives, never to return home. This is their story.



1914-1918
THE GREAT WAR

100
YEARS OF
ANZAC

THE SPIRIT
LIVES
2014 - 2018

Introduction

This year, 2015, marks the centenary of the start of the Gallipoli campaign and Australia's involvement as a nation in the greatest and most terrible conflict ever seen to that time. Australians joined their Armed Forces in large numbers. Their motives were as varied as their upbringings, from a need to save the Empire, of which Australia was an integral part, to the desire to have a great adventure.

Braidwood and district were no exception. Over the four years from 1914 to 1918, from a population of about 5000, 465 men and women from what is now the 2622 postcode area – including Braidwood, Majors Creek, Araluen, Mongarlowe, Nerriga, Ballalaba and Jembaicumbene joined the Navy or Army. Of these 377 returned to Australia. Sadly, 88 lost their lives.

A varying amount of their history is recorded in the Australian War Memorial. Some of their names, but not all, are recorded on local memorials. More is recorded in limited local histories and newspapers, not readily available to the general public; and the people who lived with and knew these distant relatives are also passing on.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch has collected all the information available from the Australian War Memorial and local sources, including the Braidwood Museum. Families, still resident in the district, have added their family knowledge and their precious memorabilia.

This booklet is the available story of **George Lyle Sharpe**, one of the 88 Braidwood volunteers who did not return from World War I. It contains his details as recorded in the World War I Roll of Honour, his Enlistment Papers, Field Service records, any Casualty notification, correspondence relating to his death, details of decorations won, any available photos, and, in some instances, family correspondence or recollections.

George Lyle Sharpe died for his country, for you and for me. Please pause a moment to remember him.

Lest We Forget.

WORLD WAR I

World War I lasted four years, from 4 August 1914 until 11 November 1918. It began after the assassination of the heir to the Austrian throne. The axis powers were Germany and Austria. Russia and France were the initial allies. When Germany invaded Belgium, Britain entered the war on the side of Russia and France.

The war was in Europe, the Western Front was in France and Belgium. The Eastern Front was Russia and Austria-Hungary. Africa was another front because of colonial possessions on that continent, and after Turkey entered the war on 1 November 1914, the Middle East became another theatre of war.

Australians generally thought of themselves as an integral part of the British Empire and the Australian Army and Navy were part of the Imperial Forces. In 1914, Australia's Prime Minister, Andrew Fisher, immediately promised Australian support for Britain 'to the last man and the last shilling.' The Australian population was less than five million. 324,000 Australians served overseas. 61,720 lost their lives. 155,000 were wounded. 4,044 became prisoners of war (397 died while captive).

The first Australian troops were sent to Egypt in 1915. The ANZACS – Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – were engaged in battle on the Gallipoli Peninsula against the Turks to control the Dardanelles' and open the way to Eastern Europe with their fateful landing on 25 April 1915.

The ANZACS were evacuated on 19-20 December 1915. The Gallipoli campaign resulted in the deaths of 7,600 Australians and the wounding of 19,000. Despite the defeat, the legend attached to the heroism, comradeship and valour of the soldiers remain a source of Australian pride and national identity.



ROLL OF HONOUR

GEORGE LYLE SHARPE

Service Number: 2915

Rank: Private

Unit: 53rd Australian Infantry Battalion

Service: Australian Army

Conflict: First World War, 1914-1918

Date of death: 13 March 1917

Place of death: France

Cause of death: Killed in action

Age at death: 28

Place of association: Ashfield, Australia

Cemetery or memorial details: Guards Cemetery,
Lesboeufs, Peronne, Picardie, France

Source: AWM145 Roll of Honour cards, 1914-1918 War,
Army

Location on the Roll of Honour: George Lyle Sharpe's
name is located at **panel 158** in the Commemorative Area
at the Australian War Memorial

53rd Australian Infantry Battalion



Colour Patch 53rd Battalion

The 53rd Battalion was raised in Egypt on 14 February 1916 as part of the "doubling" of the AIF. Half of its recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 1st Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 1st, the 53rd was predominantly composed of men from the suburbs of Sydney. The battalion became part of the 14th Brigade of the 5th Australian Division.

The battalion arrived in France on 27 June 1916, entered the front line for the first time on 10 July, and became embroiled in its first major battle on the Western Front, at Fromelles, on 19 July. The battle of Fromelles was a disaster. The 53rd was part of the initial assault and suffered grievously, incurring 625 casualties, including its commanding officer, amounting to over three-quarters of its attacking strength. Casualty rates among the rest of the 5th Division were similarly high, but despite these losses it continued to man the front in the Fromelles sector for a further two months.

The 53rd spent the freezing winter of 1916-17 rotating in and out of trenches in the Somme Valley. During this period the battalion earned the nickname "the Whale Oil Guards" after the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Oswald Croshaw, ordered the troops to polish their helmets with whale oil (issued to rub into feet as a trench foot preventative) for a smart turn out on parade. *In March 1917, the 53rd participated in the advance that followed the German retreat*

to the Hindenburg Line. It was spared the assault but did, however, defend gains made during the second battle of Bullecourt. Later in the year, the AIF's focus of operations switched to the Ypres sector in Belgium. The 53rd's major battle here was at Polygon Wood on 26 September.

With the collapse of Russia in October 1917, a major German offensive on the Western Front was expected in early 1918. This came in late March and the 5th Division moved to defend the sector around Corbie. The 14th Brigade took up positions to the north of Villers-Bretonneux and held these even when the village fell, threatening their flanks.

Once the German offensive had been defeated, the Allies launched their own offensive in August 1918. The 14th Brigade did not play a major role in these operations until late in the month, but its actions, including those of the 53rd Battalion at Anvil Wood, were critical to the capture of Peronne, which fell on 2 September. For a succession of courageous actions during the Peronne fighting, Private William Currey was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The 53rd Battalion entered its last major battle of the war on 29 September 1918. This operation was mounted by the 5th and 3rd Australian Divisions, in co-operation with American forces, to break through the formidable German defences along the St Quentin Canal. The battalion withdrew to rest on 2 October and was still doing so when the war ended. The progressive return of troops to Australia for discharge resulted in the 53rd merging with the 55th Battalion on 10 March 1919. The combined 53/55th Battalion, in turn, disbanded on





AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

E00496

France: Picardie, Somme: View of 'Knotty Point', south east of Thillois, on the Somme, in 1917. Seen here are the trenches dug by Australians in the fighting at the end of February and the beginning of March.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

H1 2677

Les Boeufs, France: A section of the Guards' Cemetery, with a remembrance cross in the background, which contains 3046 service graves including 184 members of the AIF. (Donor Sir Herbert Ellison)

D

17592

9-1
TRANSFERRED TO 53 Battalion
AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.

28 JUN
SYDNEY



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

9th Reinforcement
1st Battalion

No. 2915
53 17592
Name SHARPE, G.L.
Unit 9 REIN-1 BATT
Joined on 22-6-15

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

1. What is your Name? ... 55
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? ...
George Lyle Sharpe
in or near the Town of Braidwood
in the County of New South Wales
3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural Born
4. What is your age? ... 26 months
5. What is your trade or calling? ... Laborer
6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
7. Are you married? ... No
8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Father, William Bruce Sharpe, 9 Robert Street, Ashfield, N.S.W.
9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incurable and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No
11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... No
12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
14. Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day. ... Yes
15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against smallpox and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

* And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service for the support of my wife ~~three-fifths~~ wife and children.

Date 29/6/15

G. L. Sharpe
Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause to be amended where necessary and should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age.

CARD CHECKED 28

4

CARD CHECKED 2915

Statement of Service of No. 2915 Name G. L. Sharpe

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
	TAKEN ON STRENGTH FROM at <u>Telchel</u> <u>9 Feb</u>	<u>6/1/16</u>		<u>Pvt 713</u> <u>7/1/16</u>
	TRANSFERRED TO <u>53rd Cavalio</u>	<u>13/2/16</u>		<u>RA 112607</u> <u>9/3/16</u>
	TRANSFERRED TO <u>5th Div. A.F.A.</u>	<u>16/3/16</u>		<u>Pvt 5</u> <u>12/16</u> <u>4/4/16</u>
	Rejoined <u>Battal. from 5th Div. A.F.A.</u>	<u>17/3/16</u>		<u>Pvt 5</u> <u>1504</u> <u>4/4/16</u>
	On command at <u>Divisional Bombing School, France</u>	<u>2/8/16</u>		<u>RA 4664</u> <u>15/8/16</u>
	Rejoined from <u>On command at Divisional Grenade School France</u>	<u>14/8/16</u>		<u>RA 4883</u> <u>1/8/16</u>
Entitled to 1914/15 Star.....				
..... Entitled to 1914/15 Star.....				
<u>53rd Bn</u>	KILLED IN ACTION.	<u>France</u>	<u>17/2/17</u>	<u>Pvt 25</u> <u>1995-26-8-117</u> <u>1197</u>
<u>Burial</u>	<u>Buried at Cemetery behind Needle Church + East of Needle Dump near Les Boeuifs 2 1/4 Miles No of Bombs D & B E.</u>			<u>17045 G.</u> <u>Pvt 66/3636F</u> <u>5.9.17</u>

See Copy of Form B103 enclosed.

I have examined the above details and find them correct in every respect.

Transferred to

D

24254 X

W

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

No. 2915
 Rank Pte Name SHARPE G. L.
 Unit 53rd Battalion
 Casualty 13.3.17 Killed in Action. *C.I.B.L. 1197/8520^B dated London 9.3.17^d*

DATE.	PURPORT.	REF. NO.
	A. F. B. 103 Received	A. F. B. 2090A Received.

16.3.17
19-4-17

BURIAL REPORT RECEIVED
 A.O. 2 ADVISED, KILLED IN ACTION 13/3/17
 COPY MADE FOR WAR PENSIONS
 CONFIRMATION RECEIVED OF
 Cable No. C.I.B.L. 1197/8520^B 27/3/17

5.11.17

NO PERSONAL EFFECTS IN KIT - B.R.M. No. 17/1451
 PERSONAL EFFECTS EX. Swiss
 NO PERSONAL EFFECTS IN KIT - B.R.M. No. 41/860
 Circular B.R.M. 46/1368 & Booklet re Graves despatched 5.1.20
"Received & acknowledged" by printed card 6/8/20 AM

26-3-20

1914/15 Star issued B.R.M. 43/229/572 600 1st Comdt. 2nd M.D. B.R.M. 48/1155

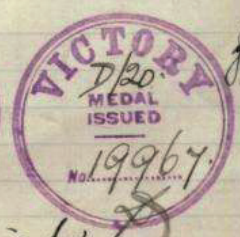
WAR HISTORY INDEX

"WHERE THE AUSTRALIANS REST."
 Pamphlet sent to Mr. W.B. Sharpe on 7/12/20 AM

MEMORIAL SCROLL
 To Father
Mr. W.B. Sharpe
317578
23/9/21 *AMS*

9/9/21

BRITISH WAR MEDAL to Comdt 2nd M.D.B.R.M. 53/1115 12M.



in triplicate

PHOTOGRAPH OF GRAVE TRANSMITTED TO NEXT OF KIN. B. R. M. No. 53/1022 AM

24.2.21

LIST.

D.F. 4/8.16. - C.9442 - 10M.

53rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. Regimental Number 2915.
Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regiment or Corps ~~9th Reinforcements to 1st Bn, A.I.F.~~
 Rank Private Surname S H A R P E, Christian Name G. L.
 Religion _____ Age on Enlistment _____ years _____ months.
 Enlisted (a) _____ Terms of Service (a) _____ Service reckons from (a) _____
 Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____
 Extended { _____ } Re-engaged { _____ } Qualification (b) _____
 or Corps Trade and Rate _____
 Signature of Officer. _____

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks <small>Taken from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 20, or other official documents</small>
Date	From whom received			
		Embarked		
		Disembarked		
				D.O. 7/713.
8/1/16.	C.O. 1st Bn, AFB 213	Taken on Strength	Tel-el-Kebir 6/1/16.	A.P. 2489.
19/2/16.	do do	Tfd to 53rd Bn at	do	13/2/16 A.P. 4653. D.O. 28/2297.
do	C.O. 53rd Bn AFB 213	Taken on Strength of 53rd Battalion at	do	A.P. 4488. D.O. 1/297.
18/3/16.	do do	Tfd to 5th Aust. Division Field Artillery.	do	A.P. 4000. D.O. 5/1416.
do	do do	Rejoined Bn from 5th Aust. Division Field Artillery	do	A.P. 6000. D.O. 5/1504.
	O.C. "Royal George"	Embarked to join B.E.F. Alexandria Disembarked at	19/6/16. Marseilles 26/8/16.	A.P. 9105.

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or reduced into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or reduction will be inserted.
 (b) Specialist, Signaling, Health, etc.
 (PRINT WORKING COPY 510 422 G.S.S. Form B. 103, E. 254.)

(P.T.O.)

Report		Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks <small>Taken from Army Form B. 103, Army Form A. 20, or other official documents</small>
Date	From whom received			
4/8/16.	C.O. 53rd Bn AFB 213.	On Command at Divisional Bombing School	France.	A.Q. 21287. D.O. 39/4661.
18/8/16.	do	Rejoined from Divisional Grenade School	do	A.Q. 3445. D.O. 41/4893.
17/3/17.	do	KILLED IN ACTION.	do	A.T. 9939 E 13/10. V.L. 388 of 17/3/17. D.O. 26/1995.

ANZAC SECTION 3rd ECHELON G.H.Q.
 BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

[Signature]
 Lieutenant,
 Officer i/o Records.

FIELD SERVICE.

Army Form B. 2090A.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36, or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT OR CORPS } 53rd INFANTRY BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Platoon or Company

Regimental No. 2915. Rank Private.

Surname S H A R P E. Christian Names G.L.

Died { Date 13th MARCH, 1917. Place In the Field, FRANCE. Cause of Death KILLED IN ACTION.

Nature and Date of Report Army Form B.213 dated 17/3/17.

By whom made G.O. 53rd Infantry Battalion A.I.F.

* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Burial { Place Particulars not yet to hand. Date For Burial Report See 3105 By whom reported

State whether he leaves a Will or not (a) in Pay Book (Army Book 647) Will not received. (b) in Small Book (if at Base) (c) as a separate document.

All private documents and effects received from the front or hospital, as well as the Pay Book, should be examined, and if any will is found it should be at once forwarded to the War Office. Any information received as to verbal expressions by a deceased soldier of his wishes as to the disposal of his estate should be reported to the War Office as soon as possible. A duplicate of this Report is to be sent to the Fixed Centre Paymaster at Home, or to the D.F.M.C. Indian Expeditionary Force, or Field Disbursing Officer, as the case may require, together with the Deceased's Pay Book (After withdrawal of any will from the latter). If the deceased's Small Book is at the Base, it should be forwarded to the War Office with this Report.

Station ANZAC SECTION 3rd ECHELON G.H.S. Date 29th MARCH, 1917. In charge of Section

W.P.

Whitman Lieut.

Officer i/c Records.

(1332) W.L. 5719/M743 400,000 8/16 JFW (E328) Form B/2090A/2

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE. KIT STORE.



110, GREYHOUND ROAD, FULHAM, LONDON, W. 6.

Telephone:--HAMMERSMITH 1099.

Inventory of Effects of— The late. No.2915 Pte. Sharpe, G.L. 53rd Batt'n.

Forwarded to— (Father).

Mr. W.P. Sharpe, 9, Robert Street, Ashfield, New South Wales.

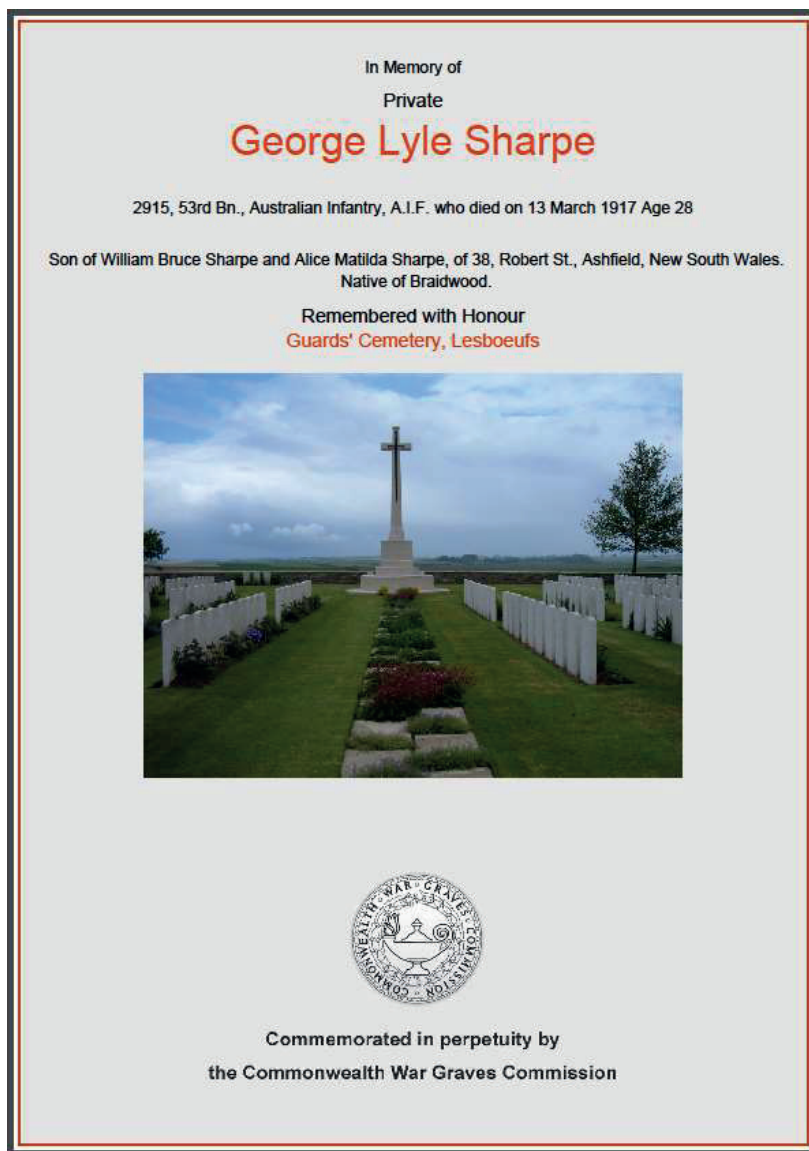
Effects:-

3rd Echelon. No. 9349. } Post Card, 2 Photos, Testament, Wallet.

Euripidies

No. of Package d/s. 12646

Checked by



Acknowledgements

Everybody responded enthusiastically to the idea of capturing the information about Braidwood's 88 World War I veterans who lost their lives. The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch is most grateful for the support they received in carrying out this task and would like to acknowledge those of whom we are aware: Karen, Chris and Renee Nelson, Roslyn Maddrell, Karen Shea, Jill Clarke, Rod McClure, Ben and Meaghan Frohling, Diane McGrath, Us On Mondays Quilting Group, Len Mutton & Co and local shopkeepers for their World War I window displays.

Thank you to the students and teachers of Braidwood Central School and St. Bedes School who have embraced these soldiers and have honoured their memories on Anzac Day 2015.

The Braidwood RSL Sub Branch raised a good proportion of the funds for the cost of producing these booklets. The efforts of the members of the sub branch involved are very much appreciated. This money was augmented by welcome funding from the Federal Government through the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program and the Braidwood Community Bank.

To all those who helped in any way, many thanks. Your efforts have ensured we remember these Braidwood and District Veterans well.

Back Cover: Peace Day, 11th November 1918, Wallace Street, Braidwood.

"Wild day in Braidwood: When Braidwood woke up on Tuesday morning to find the 'glad tidings of great joy' awaiting it that Germany had signed the armistice and the frightful carnage of the past four years or so had come to an end it simply went mad with delight. No other words could adequately describe the excitement that followed." "Braidwood Letters from the Front" by Roslyn Maddrell.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Alley, Clair Underwood
Archer, Fred
Backhouse, Victor John
Barnett, Frederick George
Barry, Charles Louis
Beatty, Walter Cusack
Bell, John Henry Edward
Black, George Scott
Bruce, Thomas Fraser
Byrne, Cecil John
Callan, William Henry
Catlin, Robert Henry
Clarke, Lester Thomas
Cook, Thomas John
Crandell, Christopher George
Cregan, Clarence Theodore Augustus
Cullen, Henry Thomas
Davis, John Henry
Davis, Oscar Raymond Stanley
Dawson, Edric Athol
Dayball, Arthur Joseph
Dempsey, Charles Frederick
Dempsey, Charles
Dowell, Frederick Robert
Feeney, William
Fisher, Osborne
Flack, John Foster
Garnett, Henry James
Geelan, Robert Michael
Gosling, Fred
Gough, James
Green, Francis Henry
Healy, Myrtle James
Howard, John Alexander
Huggett, William
Hunt, Frederick William
Hunt, John
Hush, Percy Alfred
Hush, Thomas
Hush, Austin Septimus
Innes, Henry George
Kelly, Herbert Albert
Kemp, Leslie Smith
Keyte, Robert
Knight, Charles Oliver
Lee, Thomas James
Lennon, James
Lupton, Spencer
Lynch, James Joseph
Matthews, Francis
McCool, Francis Leslie Neil
McDonald, Alexander Joseph
McLean, Donald
McRae, Finley Arnold
Meade, Arthur Stuart
Merton, Thomas David
Montgomery, Stanley
Moore, William
Newberry, Alwyn (Alwin) Horace James
O'Brien, Thomas Daniel
O'Reilly, John
Pooley, Edward
Rex, Horace Joseph
Riley, Frank
Roberts, Frederick Bede
Robinson, William James
Rodgers, Albert
Seidel, Alfred George
Seidel, Henry Edward
Sharpe, George Lyle
Sharpe, Reginald
Sherman, Edgar Robert
Sherman, Percy Frederick
Simmons, George
Smith (Greenwood), George
Spicer, William Henry
Steele, Alexander Norman
Stein, Daniel Godfrey
Stewart, David Walter
Styles, Reginald Lucian
Torpy, Patrick Edward
Torpy, Thomas Patrick
Walker, William Albert
Watt, James
Watt, Oscar Harold McClure
White, Alister
Whitelaw, Thomas Philip
Wilson, Samuel Charles

Lest We Forget